CLAIMS

1. A system for serving information data to one or more end devices of one or more users, comprising:

- one or more storage medium units for storing information data;

- managing means for managing distribution of the information data to any one of the end devices, wherein the managing means receive demand data relating to information data selected by the user through his end device, and wherein the managing means output distribution control data including channel information of the selected information data and routing information for said end device; and routing means for connecting the storage medium unit to the end device, and for routing the information data from the storage medium unit and the distribution control data from the managing means.

2. An information server system according to claim 1, wherein said routing means comprise at least one ATM switch.

3. An information server system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said information data are video and/or audio data.

4. An information server system according to claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said demand data include a public address assigned to the selected information data.

5. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1, provided with control means for controlling the storage medium unit according to the distribution control data so that the storage medium unit outputs the selected information data including routing information to the routing means.

6. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 1-5~~ claim 1, wherein the management means provide program data for the operation of visual display of

information data and/or audio information through speaker means from the storage medium unit on the end device.

7. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 1-6~~, wherein the managing means provide program data for information retrieval to the end device.

8. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 3-7~~, wherein said information retrieval comprises video on demand.

9. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 1-8,~~ comprising:

- at least one second storage medium unit for storing second information data and connected with the routing means wherein the managing means comprise a table for storing data representing information data allocation to the first and second storage medium unit, and wherein the managing means provide distribution control data for either the first or the second storage medium unit on basis of demand data from an end device.

10. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 3-9,~~ wherein said storage medium unit comprises:

- memory means for storing video and/or audio data; table means for memorizing data representing a relationship between the routing information and the video and/or audio data stored in the storage means;

- program memory means for storing program data for control of the operation of the storage medium unit;

- control means for controlling the memory means, the table means and the program memory means according to program data and for outputting one or more control signals to the end device; and

- at least one interface for transmitting the video and/or audio data with the routing information and a control signal in the form of one or more packets to the routing means and for receiving program data for operation of the storage medium unit in the form of one or more packets from the routing means.

11. An information server system according to claim 10, wherein said routing information relates to one or more virtual channels and said interface is an ATM interface.

12. An information server system according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, wherein said interface receives control data representing a selected operation mode for the end devise and wherein the control means control the memory means according to the received control data so that the information data are reproduced from the memory means in the selected operation mode.

13. An information server system according to claim 12 wherein said operation mode comprises still mode, fast forward mode, reverse mode and/or mosaic mode.

14. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 3-13~~ claim 3 wherein said video and/or audio data is divided in a predetermined number of data groups, wherein the predetermined number of data groups is recorded in a sequence different from the original sequence on a recording medium in said storage medium unit and wherein said routing means delivers continuous video and/or audio data to the end device by switching said data groups from one or more storage medium units to one or more end devices.

15. An information server system according to claim 14, wherein said recording medium is an agile disk and wherein a first portion of said data group is recorded on every N-ths (N = 1, 2, 3...) track of the disk, and remaining portions of said data groups are recorded on remaining tracks of the disk.

16. An information server system according to claim 15, wherein the first portion of said data groups is reproduced by moving a head in a first direction and the remaining portion of the data groups is reproduced by moving the head in a second direction opposite to the first direction.

17. An information server system according to ~~any one of claims 3-16~~ claim 3 wherein said video and/or audio data are divided in a predetermined number of data groups, and the

video and/or audio data are divided in T (T=2,3,4..) sentences, wherein T depends on the number of channels, wherein the predetermined number of data groups is recorded in the storage medium unit in such changed order that N (the) (N=1,2,3,4..) data group of the last sentence of the video data appears after the N (the) data group of the first sentence and wherein said routing means deliver a continuous stream of video data to the end device by switching said data groups from the storage medium unit between virtual channels.

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